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08/951,630	10/16/97	VANCE	A 07099.0010-0

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2761	12

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/951,630

Applicant(s)

VANCE ET AL.

Examiner

Frantzy Poinvil

Group Art Unit

2761



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 16, 1997

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-75 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-75 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). AND 9-1

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shoolery et al.

As per claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, Shoolery et al discloses a corporate travel system having a computerized system comprising a travel planning, expense reporting and travel management system. The system also comprises approval of travel requests before travel expenses are occurred, the automated expense report approval and the planning and booking of air, hotel, and car accommodations. Note column 7 to column 8 of Shoolery et al. It is not explicitly stated that the system comprises a relational database. It would have been obvious to the skilled artisan to include a relational database in the system of Shoolery et al in order to link the different files in the overall system and also to easily modify systems' data and components.

As per claim 2, Shoolery et al discusses traveler and corporate profiles and corporate policy. Note column 2 and column 8..

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As per claim 3, having a travel planning and a travel expense formulating module and a travel decision maker module in the system of Shoolery et al would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to have separate subsystems performing specific portions of the reservation management system.

As per claims 5 and 6, Shoolery et al teaches booking air, hotel and car accommodations using a graphical user interface. Planning a non-routine trip or a repeat trip including air, hotel and car accommodations are well known attributes of reservations system. Having this feature in Shoolery et al would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to accommodate a traveler's flight plans.

As per claim 10, including prepopulated with trip data in the GUI of Shoolery et al would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to quickly plan or modify a trip.

As per claim 11, Shoolery et al discusses pre-trip cost reporting. Note column 2. Providing data on post travel reporting are taught on column 8 of Shoolery et al. Providing pre-trip cost in the system of Shoolery et al would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to determine approval of a planned trip.

All the claimed features of claim 13 are discussed in column 8 of Shoolery et al with the exception of energizing a trip icon. This is well known and well practiced in the GUI art. as such would have also been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to visually gain access to trip access data.

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As per claims 14-16, having a new expense report icon for specifying the date and the purpose of the expense would have been obvious to the skilled artisan. Also having a frequent trip icon and selecting a frequent trip would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to provide a more user friendly GUI which would help a traveler to quickly modify or make a traveling plan. Having an expense report icon would have been obvious to the skilled artisan with the motivation of quickly creating an expense report from the GUI. The remaining limitations are discussed on column 8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 17, note columns 8-9 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 18, applicant is directed to the rejection of claims 1-18 above.

As per claim 19, applicant is directed to the rejection of claim 2 above.

As per claims 20-21, applicant is directed to the rejections of claims 1-2 above.

As per claims 22-23, applicant is directed to the rejection of claim 8.

As per claim 24, repeating the sending and receiving steps until completing the portion of the travel plan would have been obvious to the skilled artisan with the motivation of reviewing and ascertaining that all data regarding planning and reservations are in agreement with policies and the reservation systems.

As per claim 25, modifying a database to reflect information would have been obvious to the skilled artisan (note columns 7-8) for record keeping and reviewing of the planning and reservations data in case if there may be a potential disagreement.

As per claims 26-27 and 29, note columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al.

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As per claim 28, applicant is directed to column 5 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 30, Shoolery et al teaches modifying the travel plan to comply with the travel policies by sending a travel itinerary reflecting changes to the received travel plan to a computerized reservation system and receiving a response from the computerized reservation system including information reflecting availability of travel resources based on the itinerary. Note columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 31 note column 8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 32, generating a set of reports reflecting travel information from the storage subsystem would have been obvious to the skilled artisan because a travel report is usually very long (column 9, lines 15-34) and different branches of the enterprise and the reservation system and management system would require specific reports for their analysis purposes.

As per claim 33, note columns 6 and 7 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 34, note columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 35, note column 5, lines 44-59 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 36, the claimed features of claim 36 are discussed on columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al. Having a processor operating in response to a program instructions would have been obvious to the skilled artisan for the functioning of the system.

As per claims 37-47, applicant is directed to columns 5 and 7-8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claims 48, 49, 57, 64 and 73, Shoolery et al discloses a travel system and a computer implemented method of managing information in a travel system comprising storing

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travel information corresponding to itineraries and associated expense data and travel policy data in a storage subsystem. The arranging, generating and linking steps are all discussed on columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 50, Shoolery et al. discloses booking a travel itinerary with an external facility with information on travel resources and determining that any booked travel itinerary complies through policy compliance analysis. Note column 6, line 52 to column 8, line 50.

As per claim 51, note column 8, lines 5-26.

As per claims 52-54, note column 7, line 37 to column 8, line 4.

As per claim 55, note column 7, line 1 to column 8, line 54.

As per claim 56 the status report including information from the storage subsystem and stored travel resource contract data such as expense data are discussed on column 8, lines 5-50.

As per claim 58, Shoolery et al discusses booking a travel itinerary with an external facility with information on travel resources and ensuring that booked travel itineraries comply with stored travel policies. Having a booking component and a policy component for performing these functions would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to maintain a well structured database whereby specific modules or computer component structures are associated with specific tasks and thereby obtaining a faster overall system.

As per claims 59-61, note columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 62, Shoolery et al discusses generating a report including travel itinerary, associated expense data and associated information reflecting compliance with the travel policy

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data. Note columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al. Having a reporting subsystem is not explicitly recited in Shoolery et al. Having a reporting subsystem for performing these functions would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to maintain a well structured database whereby specific modules or computer component structures are associated with specific tasks and thereby obtaining a faster overall system.

As per claim 63, Shoolery et al discusses accessing various storage systems to generate a report or status report. Note columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claims 65 and 66, these claimed features are discussed on columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al. Having a planning subsystem, a management subsystem and a reporting subsystem would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to maintain a well structured database whereby specific subsystems or computer component structures are associated with specific tasks and thereby obtaining a faster overall system.

As per claim 67, all the claimed limitations are discussed on columns 7-8 with the exception of providing and storing preference data associated with travelers or group of travelers. This teaching is discussed on column 5, lines 44-59.

As per claim 68, applicant is directed to column 8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 69, updating for reflecting enterprise-wide travel information in the database would have been obvious to the skilled artisan with the motivation of providing travelers and employees with the latest policies and trip data.

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As per claims 70-72, all the claimed features are taught on columns 7-8. Having separate components as claimed for performing the claimed functions are not explicitly recited in Shoolery et al. Having these components would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to maintain a well structured database whereby specific modules or computer component structures are associated with specific tasks and thereby obtaining a faster overall system.

As per claim 74, applicant is directed to column 5, lines 44-59 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 75, applicant is directed to columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al.

2.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frantzy Poinvil, whose telephone number is (703) 305-9779. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

The fax phone number for this Art Unit is (703) 305-0040.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

FP

30Sep99


Frantzy Poinvil
Primary Examiner
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